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MYSINDIA

FEMININE FANCIES : DAINTY DANSEUSE FROM CHINA

China has a fascination all its own, in particular for lovers of beauty, for the Chinese attach sacramental value to all forms of art, and the country is famed for the artistry and detailed delicacy of its paintings, porcelain and embroideries.

Bangalore-ites do not have many chanc s of meeting people from China, for visitors are few, and residents fewer still. Dr. and Mrs. H'Su however, spent several months here, and those who met them, found them a very interesting couple. Dr. H'Su is a naturalised American and was sent out to India by the Rockfeller Foundation (in conjunction with the Indian Government.) He is a Professor of Anthropology and very knowledgeable in all matters.

His wife Yi-nan, like so many of her countr men, is slenderly fashioned and has dainty piquant featur s. The H'Sus have two enhhanting little girls Eileen and Penny who inherit their father's brains and mother's prettiness.

The elder daughter is quite a remarkable child. She takes an insatiable interest in everything around her, and at the tender age of eleven, has acquired a fund of general knowledge. For the last two months Eileen has been studying classical Indian dancing, and her parents invited a number of their friends to a recital, shortly before they left Bangalore.

The concert took place at Gul Mohar the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Bryan of Caltex, and the evening provided aesthetic pleasure for all those who were present.

The two hostesses smilingly welcomed their guests, Frances Bryan attractive and soignee, her fair hair in a becoming knot, and Mrs. H'Su looking like a Chinese painting in a slim fitting dress of pink and black.

Guests were ushered into the dining-room on arrival, and Fran's feather light chocolate and lemon chiffon cakes literal y went with the wind!

Eileen has been studying under Prof. Krishna Rao, No.1 exponent of Bharata Natyam in Bangalore and the Professor, on introducing his pupil, gave a brief summary of Indian dancing. Speaking in his own lucid style, combining deep knowledge of his art with humour, he said that the language of the dance can be divided into three groups - the alphabet of the feet, of the hands, and of facial expression.

This ancient and complicated art needs, ot years, but a lifetime of study and patient effort, he said, yet the little Chinese pupil he was presenting that evening had had no more than two and a half months' training.

There were three short dances on the programme, the first two, Allaripu and Thillana, being solos. The elaborate technique and highly stylized beauty of classical Indian dancing combined with the delicate suppleness and butterfly grace of the Chinese, made Eileen's recital something out of the ordinary and extremely pleasing to the eye.

In her ornate dress of vivid peacock, rose and gold, jasmine gralands round her neck and in her hair, she looked like a little miniature come to life.

In the third item, a Sari Dance, Eileen was joined by her father. Dr. H'Su had not taken lessons from Prof. Krishna Rao but had merely learnt through watching his daughter. As the Professor amusingly put it, contrary to precedent in this case, it was the father following (in) his daughter's footsteps!

Grown-ups and their off-spring watched this charming recitcal, and among those present were three generations of the Lal family, Mr. & Mrs. Basant Lal, Air Commodore and Mr. Pratab Bal and their two bright children Robi and Gopa, Gp.Capt. and Mrs. Chatterjee and their comely little girl Anita, Sqn. Ldr. and Mrs. Manekshah and their brown eyed daughters Sharna and Erna, Margaret Long and accompanied by her two cute girls Bonny and Debby, and Mrs. Krishna Rao wife of - Professor who is herself a danseuse of talent and grace.

ZARINA

(TRUE COPY)

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December 31st 1957.

Dear Mr. Krishna Rao,

We hope this will be one of many more happy birthdays!

Your patience and time with our children we greatly appreciate. Through you we have come to appreciate Indian dance.

Gratefully yours,

Sd. Mrs. TEN BRINK.

(TRUE COPY)

"THE ONLOOKER" BOMBAY, dated 1st February, 1958.

BANGALORE LORE.

His Excellency Mr. Vilian Siroky, Prime Minister of Czechoslovakia was an important visitor to the State. He was accompanied by Mr. J.N.Khosla, Ambassador of India in Czechoslovakia and other Union officials,as well as 26 members of his personal entourage.

Soon after his arrival he attended a variety entertainment at the Town Hall by invitation of the Mysore Government where the star turn of the evening was the Bharata Natyam dance performed by the graceful young Sudha Rani who is a pupil of Prof. and Mrs. U.S.Krishna Rao.

The following day the Prime Minister carried out a heavy programme of sight seeing, but in the evening he was able to relax in the pleasant and secluded quadrangle of the Corporation Offices where he was accorded a civic receiption by the Mayor Mr. Jeenabhai Davidoss and Councillors. He was presented with a handsome casket of carved sandalwood surmounted by an ivory elepant. Sandalwood batons were also given to all the other mem ers of the visiting party.

Western women are taking more and more to Bharata Natyam dancing as a hobby and many make quite a success of it. In the latter category is Mrs. Kedar Bryan, who has become an ardent devotee of the art in the few months she has been taking lessons from the expert Prof. Krishna Rao, who is no less enthusiastic at having found such an apt pupil.

Frances Bryan gave her first recital recently at a delightful party given by her and her husband at their spacious residence Caltex House, to an intimate group of friends. As a tribute to Prof. Krishna Rao, the date chosen was his birthday, and the hostess had produced a superb American cake nearly a foot high with candles on it. After a lavish buffet tea everyone settled down to watch the programme of dancing. Frances, mother of three children, is an attractive person with corn-gold hair and a lovely serene smile, her Indian costume of gold and green suited her colouring admirably and her interpretation of Bharata Natyam dancing was admired by all.

Also taking part in one of theitems were her three attractive children Edwin, Anne, and Jimmy together with Carol Brink, Sharon Seamonds, and Elizabeth, Margaret and Parricia Dunderdale.

Among those enjoying the recital were the U.S.Vice-Consul and Mrs. Horne who had brought with them a distinguished visitor from America, Mrs. Gallagher, Reta Van Carmelo, Col and Mrs. Ashley Gomes, Mrs. Ingle with her sweet daughter Patsy, Roy and Diana Mirza, the Kothawala sisters, Mme. Auger and Mrs. Krishna Rao who ably partners her husband, and the Issots.

(TRUE COPY)

"ON LOOKER" 15th March, 1958.

His Majesty Mohammed Zahir Shah, king of Afghanistan, was an important visitor to the City recently. He arrived by plane from Agra, and was received by the Chief Minister and other officials.

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Outstanding performers at the concert included Widwan Chowdiah, South India's foremost exponent of the violin, and now a member of the Mysore Legislative Council. Another interesting item on the programme was a ballet entitled "Temptation of Buddha", Prof. U.S. Krishna Rao, the Bharata Natyam expert, and his wife Chandrabhaga Devi, were responsible for the choreography, dances and direction; the professor himself playing the role of Mara, the Prince of Darkness and Profane Love, who tries to lure the Buddha from his path of virtue. He gave of his most outstanding performances.

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WEST END HOTEL
Bangalore.

Dear Professor and Mrs. Rao

There are no words that can adequately express the delight, interest and enjoyment that Mr. Tillinghast and I experienced in seeing your beautiful dancing last evening.

It will be an outstanding event iin our short stay in India and we send our heart-felt thanks to both of you for portraying this wonderful art to us.

We will follow your future course with great interest and send you our best wishes for the great joy and success that you have now and will continue - I am sure - to have in the future.

Again our sincere thanks for our beautiful memory.

Very sincerely yours,

Sd,MARGARET TODD TILLINGHAST.

Thursday, April the twenty fourth.

TIMES OF INDIA - 3-4-1958.

DANCE PERFORMANCE

U.S. Krishnarao and party well-known Bharatanatyam dancers from Mysore, will give a dance performance at the Lady Irwin College hall at 6 p.m. on Apri l 6. The programme is being organised by the Delhi branch of the Federation of University Women of Indian.

Krishnarao, who had come to Delhi with his troupe at the invitation of the Sangeet Natak Akadami to participate in the Dance Seminar, is a noted exponent of Bharatatnatyam.

"LLOYD TRIESTINO"
Trieste

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Rao,

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Our two years in that City were some of the best we have ever hand, and a large part of the happiness came from knowing you and being able to study under you. It has been a truly great privilege.

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Sd.FRAN

I hope that you will have much happiness during 1959 and continue to find deep satisfaction in the great work you are doing of passing on the traditions and beauty of the past to the young people of a great country.

My fondest love to you all. JOA
PASMORE FRANCE

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SISTER OF KINGSPORT NURSE PERFORMS EXOTIC TEMPLE DANCES OF SOUTH INDIA

By DOROTH Y. BRIMER.

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This, however, only spurred her on. She was determined then to show her friends she could learn.

"Besides, Krishna Rao, who taught the dances, was a strict instructor and a busy man. You were not permitted to waste his time. If you showed no progress after a few lessons, he politely asked you to discontinue", Mrs. Bryan said."I was determined he wouldn't ask me."

Bharata Natyam, the dance which Mrs. Bryan learned, is the oldest classical dance in South India. There are about 50 known dances but this is the oldest and the principal one used.

It was original y performed in the Temple by the Temple girls and has a distinct religious meaning.

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Mrs. Bryan said that Krishna Rao is trying to have the classical Indian dances introduced as part of the cultural course incolleges there.

The Bryans expect to leave for New Delhi, India, January 14.